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## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Hello Everyone,

Greetings from Augusta! This past year has been a busy and challenging one with important progress especially for our coastal communities.

This session started right off with the passage of legislation to help heat Maine homes in the absence of hoped for federal funds. Add to that our efforts to provide support for our seniors as they transition to the federal Medicare Part D program, and it has been a full slate.

I want to say thank you for all the support given to passing Question 7 this past November. It is not an easy task to change the constitution of our fair state and yet Mainers took it on and gave the strong message that yes, we do need to protect our working waterfront. Along with Question 7, the voters supported continued funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program. This year, that included the creation of a program to help purchase working waterfront property – ensuring it remains as working land to support Maine's fisheries.

Another recent accomplishment was the reform of the Maine Property Tax and Rent Program, which was expanded to cover more Mainers who pay too much of their income on property taxes. In addition, the program will now give greater refunds to many Mainers most at risk of losing their home to high taxes. The application deadline for 2005 taxes is May 31, 2006. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.state.me.us/revenue/taxrelief/tnr.htm">www.state.me.us/revenue/taxrelief/tnr.htm</a> or you can call Maine Revenue Services at 624-7894

As the House chair of Marine Resources Committee, my energies this session are focused on water quality issues surrounding the shellfish industry, fishing vessel safety and keeping the lines of communication open between industry stakeholders.

It is an honor to serve as your representative upriver in Augusta. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at home at 389-2133.

Be well,

Leila Jane Percy

State Representative

District 64 Harpswell, Phippsburg and part of West Bath

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